

West Hartford Substance Abuse Prevention Commission (SAPC)
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2017

Roll Call: Dave Eppner, Joan Biagioni, Ben Grippo, Joe Kalache, Mitch Irving, Sagar Patel, Leo Negron, Hellen Drohan, Joanna Curry-Sartori, Jacqueline Dulude, Amal Ali, Chastity Rodriguez, Grace Johnson, Kim Ambroise,

Non SAPC Members: Emily Melnick (ICR), Peg Weeks (ICR)

Absent: Gretchen Nelson, Jean Schensul, Dave Pauluk, Nordia Napier, Ed D'Adio, Chastity Rodriguez,

Approve Minutes: January minutes approved by vote.

Appointments

- Kim Ambroise confirmed by Town Council as member of SAPC.
- Student applications: have a number of students interested but not sure if it will work in their schedule so waiting on that. Discussion about how to find committed students and if we create a student "seat" that different students can rotate through depending on availability. Kim and LBE will invite any interested students to attend next meeting so they can get a sense of it.

Old Business

RE: Fight the New Drug- Joe asked CASAC if money could be held until next fiscal year and this was approved. It is going to go forward and FTND will come to WeHa in the fall.

New Business

ICR Presentation

- Mitch, Peg Weeks (executive director)
- (NOTE: See power point)
- ICR Invitation- They are looking for coalition members - Looking for schools, faith based, youth service, sap retention and treatment, polices, students, etc. Encourage participation from SAPC. Critically needed for success of grant.

Pulse from police dept (Leo Negron, SRO, Conard H.S.)

- It seems is marijuana on rise, and above alcohol.
- We think prescription drug use is on rise but hard to gauge.
- There is a lot of denial and fail to accept that this is going on in town. People keep hidden due to stigma.
- It is good to see numbers but also we suspect it is under reported
JRB referrals--- We give this to students as one time offer to a student who would be in trouble with law but instead of arrest they do a juvenile referral. They bring in the student and parent as alternative to going to court- e.g. they are assigned counseling and community service. It keeps kids from having criminal record. In 2015 - 30 referrals. In 2016- referrals went down. This year numbers are going up.

- Middle schools are seeing an increase in marijuana use-- easier to hide than alcohol. Also at Conrad- THC issues with vaping and e-cigs. Instead of nicotine they have THC in the e-cig. They use vape containers and taking out filters and drop THC on coils and breathe out of their back pack. We haven't seen synthetics yet in school.
- Drug arrests in school have gone down but think its because kids just learned not to bring drugs into schools.
In schools, its rare to see heroine use. In town overdose deaths have been adults.
- Now we have narcan in all marked police cars and SRO cars at schools. We have had a few instances where we used it successfully.
- There are prescription drop off centers in Bloomfield, East hartford, and other surrounding towns.
- Helen shared that 80,000 bags for prescription disposal have been given by the state to pharmacist. You can put all medications in the bag. Charcoal derivative and water neutralize all meds in the bags. After 80 000 bags are used, then its a paid service.
- Town gangs on the rise- Main one of concern is MOE- "money over everything". Quite a few from Conrad and also Hartford kids. Activity includes car theft, weapons and drug use. Growing over last few years. Other gangs in town include NBA- new britain ave . OTF- Only the family- more a partying group.
- Issue- because of juvenile laws- police can't share information with other stakeholders in way that would better help them to address issue.
- E.g. Surrounding towns can't release info of who is involved.
Laws so lax that kids arrested for car theft don't have much consequence.

Discussion re Legalization of Marijuana

CASAC against it

See email from Yifrah Kaminer re sign petition and consider ways to distribute to schools, parents, etc.

Motion to take these three next steps to town council- vote was unanimous in favor of:

- 1) Ask town council to send strongly worded resolution to our legislators advising them to decline legislations (Jaclyn, Ben will work on this)
- 2) Send informative email to parents inform them of the issues, petition etc. (Kim and Grace will work on this.)
- 3) Hold a town forum to discuss issue (Joanna, Sagar, David will work on this)

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Curry-Sartori

March 16, 2017



